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## **Bosnia-Herzegovina**

### **Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety**

### **Support Needed for Bosnian Vet Stations and Lab**

**2002**

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**Report Highlights:** In Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) outbreaks of OIE list A diseases are not notified regularly to the international community. Specifically, in 2000, outbreaks of Classical Swine Fever and Newcastle Disease were not reported. In addition, Q-fever and other human communicable diseases were not reported. The lack of reporting and disease control measures threatens countries in the region and complicates agricultural trade. International support for veterinary inspection stations and the construction of a level III diagnostic laboratory would go a long way to improving animal disease control. This report provides information on the BiH's complex organizational, legislative, and administrative structures as they relate to animal disease control.

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**Report Highlights:**

Under the 1995 Dayton Peace Agreement, Bosnia Herzegovina (BiH) is divided into two 'Entities': the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (F BiH) and Republika Srpska (RS). There is also the District of Brcko, established by a separate international agreement in 2000, which has a special administrative status. Veterinary competencies are divided and two independent parallel organizations function within the same country, each operating in their respective territories. Coordination between the two Entities on veterinary matters is hampered by this complex administrative structure. A recently established State Veterinary Office is designed to act as an umbrella organization but it is not yet recognized by the Entities (but is recognized by the international community). There is no unified veterinary legislation on a national level but new legislation is being considered. In addition, certain animal diseases are not being tested for due to poorly equipped laboratories. Government oversight for farm registration, animal identification, and animal movement control is very weak.

***Bosnia and Herzegovina Veterinary Services***

In the F BiH, the responsibility for veterinary issues rests with the Ministry of Agriculture, Water Management and Forestry. F BiH is divided into ten cantons (administrative districts). Each canton has a large degree of autonomy in the area of health regulations. According to a Veterinary Law introduced in 2000, cantons should come under the authority of the F BiH Ministry of Agriculture but in practice they do not.

In the RS the responsibility for veterinary issues rests with the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management. The RS is divided into seven main regions with 55 municipalities.

In F BiH, the veterinary services operate at central, cantonal and municipal level and in the RS at central and municipal level. Veterinary services at the field level are provided through state-owned veterinary stations in charge of epizootology, reproduction services, and animal treatment. Privatization of these field stations is planned. In the RS, the privatization process is supported by the German organization for technical co-operation (GTZ).

The Council of Ministers in BiH, based on recommendations from the international community, established an independent state-level Veterinary Office in November 2000. The role of this office is to co-ordinate veterinary activities between the two entities, harmonize veterinary laws and regulations and to represent BiH internationally (for example, at the OIE). In theory, the new Veterinary Office should have replaced the Veterinary Co-ordination Office established earlier within the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations. However, the Entities do not recognize the State Office because they did not participate in its creation and they are as yet unwilling to cede power on this issue.

***Veterinary laws***

Both Entities have differing veterinary laws and separate systems of health certification. For the

F BiH, the notifiable diseases do not match EU legislation. F BiH laws generally follows the [Office International Des Epizooties \(OIE\)](#) guidelines but in practice resources are focused on the following diseases: Anthrax, Rabies, Brucellosis, Leucosis Enzootica Bovum, BSE, Classical Swine Fever, Newcastle disease, Foot and Mouth Disease, Trichinellosis and Tuberculosis.

In RS, the Veterinary Law requires notification of all [OIE List A](#) diseases and includes Foot and mouth disease, Swine vesicular disease, Rinderpest, Contagious bovine pleuropneumonia, Sheep and goat pox, African horse sickness, African swine fever, Classical swine fever, Avian influenza and Newcastle disease.

***Animal diseases***

Although BiH is a member of the OIE, outbreaks of OIE list A diseases are not being consistently notified. Specifically, outbreaks of Classical Swine Fever and Newcastle Disease during 2000 were not reported to the OIE.

According to information given by the BiH F and RS Ministries of Agriculture, the last occurrences of OIE list A diseases were as follows:

OIE code	Name of disease	Last year of the occurrences in F BiH	Last year of the occurrences in RS
A010	Foot and mouth Disease	1968	1968
A020	Vesicular stomatitis	0000	0000
A030	Swine vesicular disease	0000	0000
A040	Rinderpest	1883	1883
A050	Peste des petits ruminants	0000	0000
A060	Contagious bovine pleuropneumonia	0000	0000
A070	Lumpy skin disease	0000	0000
A080	Rift Valley fever	0000	0000
A090	Bluetongue	0000	0000
A100	Sheep pox and goat pox	1995	1955
A110	African horse sickness	0000	0000
A120	African swine fever	0000	0000
A130	Classical swine fever	2001	2002
A140	Enterovirus encephalomyelitis	0000	0000
A150	Highly pathogenic avian influenza	0000	0000
A160	Newcastle disease	1991	1998

Because of European outbreaks of FMD, BSE, and Classical Swine Fever, both the F BiH and the RS have banned imports and transportation of domestic and wild ungulates and their products from a number of countries, as well as feed containing proteins of animal origin. Because of the outbreak of Newcastle Disease, imports of poultry and poultry products from Turkey has been banned.

The United States was not listed in any of the above-mentioned import bans.

From the [OIE List B](#) diseases there are sporadic occurrences of Leptospirosis, Brucellosis, Q fever, Rabies, Trichinellosis, Nosemosis, and Varoosis.

A major outbreak of Q fever in the municipality of Kakanj was first reported in 1998 and included 90 cases of human infection. Between April and July, 2000, another outbreak of Q fever was reported by the F BiH Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Health, mainly in the municipalities of West Mostar and Kakanj. Sporadic cases of Q fever have also been recorded from other areas of the Federation of BiH, just as recently as March 2002. The situation is now apparently under control. Both Entities have adopted rules for the control of Q-fever and Brucellosis. Future EU assistance to BiH will include veterinary equipment and lab supplies for five laboratories to test 10 – 15 percent of the cattle and sheep for Q-fever and Brucellosis. The results of this survey should give a good indication of how prevalent these diseases are nationwide.

Both Entities publish monthly bulletins on their animal diseases status. The reliability of the data is questionable due to the inconsistent reporting system from the field to central offices. Another reason is insufficient testing and monitoring of diseases and BiH laboratories are not equipped for certain diseases testing (e.g., BSE).

### ***Animal identification and movement control***

BiH began farm registration and animal identification in November 2000 and with assistance from the EU began to implement an animal identification and movement control scheme in January 2002. One goal of the national animal identification system is to better control the spread of animal diseases and to facilitate trade between Bosnia and Herzegovina and the EU. EU law requires Member States to introduce a system of

animal identification commensurate with European Directives.<sup>1</sup> Countries in Central and Eastern Europe wishing to join the EU will need to adopt control systems that are consistent with these requirements. Animals imported from third countries (i.e., Bosnia), pursuant to Directive 91/446/EEC, are be subject to the same identification requirements.

### ***Animal Imports***

The Ministries of Agriculture in BiH F and the RS provide detailed import requirements that generally follow the OIE rules. For each import, an authorization is issued upon the importer's request. In both Ministries, a list of authorized importers is maintained. The quarantine period for animals is 30 days, during which various tests are conducted. Most of quarantine stations are quite old, have inadequate facilities, are poorly managed, privately-owned, and are in need of repair. Some international organizations claim they shipped healthy animals to BiH only for them to get infected with Q-fever or other diseases at unsanitary quarantine stations. Border control points also generally need to be improved and there are a significant number of animals that are smuggled into BiH without any health controls.

### ***Quarantine Stations***

The construction of at least two quarantine stations with the oversight of the State Veterinary Officer will provide animal health security to BiH.

### ***Level III Labs***

A Level III laboratory able to test for list A diseases contagious to man and animals is also of utmost importance and need in BiH.

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<sup>1</sup>102/92/EEC and Commission Regulations (EC) No. 820/97, (EC) No 2628/97, (EC) No. 2629/97, (EC) No. 2630/97, (EC) No. 494/98